
Ref: OSHE 008/21

CIRCULAR 6

25 March 2021

Dear Staff and Students

COVID-19: FURTHER UPDATE ON SWAB TESTS CONDUCTED AT UTOWN RESIDENCE

1. In [OSHE Circular 5](#), we informed the community that 438 individuals were swabbed at UTown Residence North Tower, with 437 results coming back negative for COVID-19 infection, and one case pending.
2. We are pleased to confirm that the pending case has also tested negative for COVID-19.
3. Laboratory test results of wastewater samples collected from NUS hostels, including UTown Residence, revealed no positive trace of COVID-19 viral fragments for three consecutive days – from 23 to 25 March 2021.
4. The mandatory swab tests for COVID-19 were carried out this week, as a precautionary measure, by the Ministry of Health (MOH) following low levels of COVID-19 viral ribonucleic acid (RNA) being detected from wastewater sample collected on 20 March 2021 from the inspection chamber linked to the bathrooms at UTown Residence North Tower. Investigations by MOH indicate that the COVID-19 viral fragments detected in the wastewater sample were likely due to viral shedding from a recovered past infection amongst the residents.
5. All staff and students are reminded to strictly observe all safe management measures on our campuses, which include social distancing, wearing of masks at all times, close monitoring of their health, declaration of temperature through uNivUS, and the use of Trace Together and NUSafe app. If you are unwell, please exercise social responsibility and see a doctor immediately.
6. If you have further questions, please check with the management office of your faculty, school or department, or email COVID-19@nus.edu.sg.

Dr Peck Thian Guan
Senior Director
Office of Safety, Health and Environment

Stay updated:

- NUS circulars, FAQs, emergency contact numbers, as well as useful links on the COVID-19 situation are available at emergency.nus.edu.sg.
- The latest NUS-related news, research and commentaries on COVID-19 are available [here](#).
- Please refer to the [Ministry of Health](#) for the latest information on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.